



WATTON AT STONE PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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GOVERNOR LETTER

28th March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

We are aware that it has been some time since we have written to you and there are a number of subjects on which we would like to comment.

Ofsted inspection

First of all, we wish to extend our appreciation of the huge effort that all the school staff have put in responding to the last Ofsted inspection. The school has undergone a significant programme of review and development in all aspects of its work. We have been extremely impressed by the dedication and professionalism of the staff and we believe that the children are benefitting greatly from all this hard work and making great progress.

A number of governors conducted one of our regular visiting days last Thursday and we were very impressed by all that we saw. We visited every classroom and also spoke with a number of children.

As you may recall, the governors responded to the inspection by commissioning an external review of our work, we then developed and implemented an action plan which ensured that we were more effective. We completed that action plan in the Autumn term last year and since then have run a number of events and reviews of the school's work. We will continue this enhanced level of monitoring in the future.

Our effect on the School

The main purpose of the work we do is to fulfil the three core functions of a Board of Governors.

These core functions are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school
2. Holding the senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the pupils
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

We achieve these obligations by developing a close and supportive relationship with the school and by spending time seeing it in action. We also fully support the school in delivering its obligations to the children, including ensuring maximum attendance and effective and inclusive behaviour management.

Attendance

This is an area where we need your help to do better. The government have a requirement that we meet its attendance standards, which they have increased in the past year and the school has an Attendance policy to ensure that we meet those standards. The governors have approved and fully support the implementation of the policy and its reward system and urge you to follow it as closely as possible. There are times when a child cannot attend school and we do acknowledge that unwell children should be kept at home but these incidents should be kept to a minimum as they disrupt the education of every student in the class.

Behaviour

We are currently developing new principles of behaviour for all school stakeholders. We will be conducting a survey of your views on these principles at the forthcoming Parents Evenings and would ask you to find out more about them at these events. We will be manning a table in the school hall where you will be able to make your views known and also find out more about the work we do.

Parent View

As you know, we are expecting the next Ofsted inspection at any time in the next few months. One source of evidence for the inspectors is the website Parent View.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

We would ask you to register on this site and complete an entry for Watton at Stone Primary and Nursery School as your opinion of how well the school is doing is really important for us.

We will continue to do our best to ensure your children are happy and safe at school and get the best education possible.

If you would like more information on the work we do or have any comments on how we can do better please feel free to contact us at any time.

On behalf of the Board of Governors

Yours sincerely

Charles Clark

Chair